

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Nature lecture spotlights bumblebees**

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (August 22, 2012) – Michael Warriner reveals the fascinating world of native bees, and how to attract docile bees to your garden at *Bumblebees and Native Bees of Texas*, at the next *Walk in Woods* Nature Lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Drive.

“Native bees are the number one animal pollinator of agricultural, ornamental and wild plants,” according to Mr. Warriner, wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Bumblebees are superior pollinators of blueberries, tomatoes, watermelon, peppers, eggplant and many other flowering plants.

Mr. Warriner launched [www.texasbumblebee.com](http://www.texasbumblebee.com) to collect and share information about the nine bumblebee species previously recorded in Texas. “Despite their critical roles in agriculture and natural ecosystems, bumblebees have gone virtually unstudied in Texas,” Mr. Warriner said.

The biologist hopes to change that by cataloging photos of native bees snapped by average citizens. The bee census will provide valuable insight about how native bees are faring across the state.

Appealing to nature enthusiasts of all ages, Mr. Warriner shares how to identify the nine bumblebee species found in Texas, citizen science’s role in understanding them and strategies to protect them. Bumblebee identification posters are also available for purchase.

The program is a free offering of The Woodlands Township sponsored by The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N., Hilton Garden Inn and Waste Management. For more information, please visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov) or call 281-210-3800.

For more information on The Woodlands Township government, please call 281-210-3800 or



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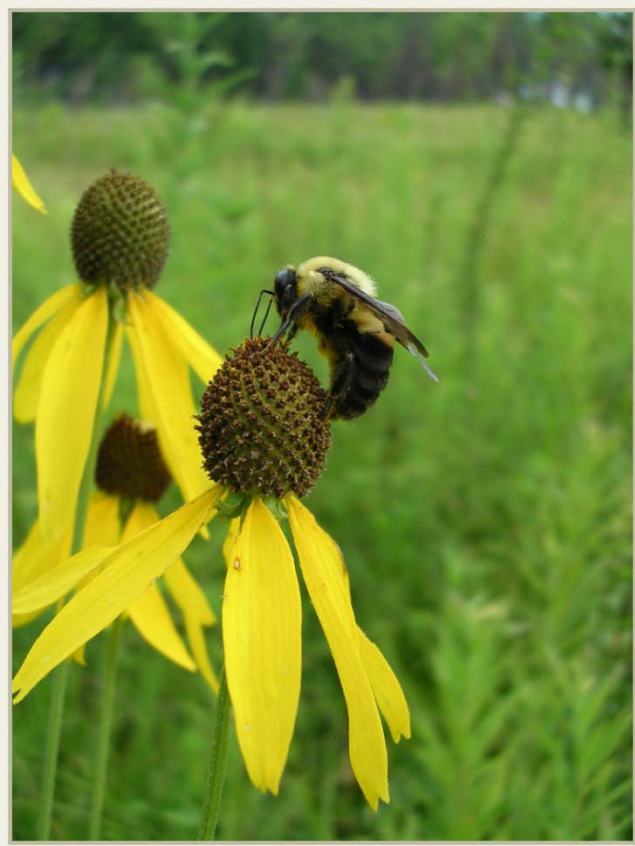


Photo courtesy Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**PHOTO:** Nine species of bumblebees and hundreds of native bees have been recorded in the state of Texas. Discover why we need them on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the *Walk in the Woods* Nature Lecture.

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